

followed ended with the U.S. military intervention that eventually fostered a classic tripartite constitutional government, with multiple competing political parties alternating in power. Moreover, the jobs-creating business sector and the labor movement thrive. A year ago, Dominicans elected their eighth post-Trujillo president: successful businessman Luis Abinader (born in 1967), D.R.'s first chief executive born after Trujillo's downfall.

All this sharply contrasts with socialist Cuba, a stagnant, closed society controlled by the Castro family and its hand-picked, mostly military, non-elected cronies still chanting discredited Marxist slogans. True, the Castros counted on initial popular support, but it soon vanished as they hijacked the liberal-inspired anti-Batista political rebellion and turned Cuba into a nightmarish dystopia. While the D.R. steered toward the Open Society ideal, Cuba rushed in the opposite direction with the Castros' tropical version of the failed Soviet-Russian mold.

Dictatorships of all genres customarily attract foreign apologists who, comfortably from abroad, extol alleged relative achievements. Trujillo, who even received an honorary doctorate from a U.S. university, was praised by the same New York Times that characteristically propagates ridiculous excuses for Cuba's oppressors. Likewise, the academic world brims with fake-news reports intent on laundering the Castros' fiascos, while also defaming Cuban-Americans.

As we salute Dominicans upon their celebrating six decades free of despotism, one should commiserate with the Cuban people, still suffering three generations of anachronic totalitarianism; in fact, so far over twice as long as Trujillo's dictatorship lasted.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANCIS COLLINS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask the Senate to join me in recognizing the incredible career of Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, as he prepares to step down as Director and return to his research laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute, NHGRI.

NIH is the crown jewel of our Nation's and the world's biomedical infrastructure. The Institute touches all of our lives through its research, which deepens our understanding of the natural world and produces groundbreaking medicines and lifesaving treatments for diseases. Like all Marylanders, I am proud that NIH is headquartered in Bethesda and has several satellite campuses throughout the State.

Dr. Collins' career with NIH has spanned more than three decades. A physician-geneticist, Dr. Collins served as the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993 to 2008. In this work, he led the Human Genome Project, which in April 2003 completed sequencing the human DNA instruction book. The sequencing of the 3 billion DNA letters that make up the human genetic "instruction book" has been instrumental in uncovering the role that the genome plays in human health and disease and marshaling in a new era of medicine. For this

work, Dr. Collins deservedly received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.

Dr. Collins is the longest serving, Presidentially appointed NIH Director, having served as the 16th Director of NIH under three U.S. Presidents over more than 12 years. Building on his groundbreaking research in genetics, Dr. Collins has led the Institutes in the effort to develop a greater understanding of medicine and pursue innovations in diagnoses and treatments.

This includes the "All of Us" program, which is a precision medicine initiative that in 2018 began gathering the health data of 1 million participants to develop individualized healthcare that enables us to better treat and prevent disease. Dr. Collins' leadership has similarly led to incredible advancements in understanding neurological conditions. The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies—BRAIN—Initiative aims to develop revolutionary pictures of the brain to enable researchers to find new ways to treat, cure, and even prevent neurological disorders that affect millions of Americans.

Dr. Collins' tenure has included leading the fight to eradicate cancer under the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. This generational effort aims to improve our ability to prevent cancer or detect it at an earlier stage and develop more effective therapies to treat it. To date, over \$1 billion in Moonshot funding has made incredible progress through support of over 240 research projects across more than 70 cancer initiatives.

Last but certainly not least, Dr. Collins' leadership as NIH Director has witnessed one of the toughest and most challenging tests for the Institutes: the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Dr. Collins' commitment to adhering to the science and steadfast leadership, the NIH has played an historic role in shepherding the development of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and all manner of medical resources toward COVID-19 response efforts. Though the Omicron variant is troubling and the pandemic rages in many parts of the world, we are better prepared to respond and persevere against the COVID-19 pandemic because Dr. Collins played a principal role in leading our national biomedical response efforts.

Dr. Collins is not just a scientist. He is also an avid guitarist and motorcyclist. And his book, "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief", is one of the most intellectually rigorous and compelling efforts to reconcile the worlds of science and faith.

I ask the Senate, my fellow Marylanders, and a grateful Nation to join me in recognizing the career of an extraordinary physician-geneticist, Dr. Francis Collins. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and stewardship of NIH and wish him a happy and well-deserved return to his research laboratory.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LOUIS UCCELLINI

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the upcoming retirement on January 1, 2022, of a true public servant and leader, Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

Louis is the epitome of a dedicated civil servant, having spent the past 43 years of his career at both NOAA and NASA contributing to and leading the maturation and advancement of our Nation's weather prediction capabilities. Put simply, there is no aspect of today's weather forecast that Dr. Uccellini hasn't advanced during his storied career.

But Louis' contributions span far beyond science. Perhaps most notably, and certainly most visible to the public, are the organizational changes Louis has made to National Weather Service since becoming Director in 2013. The establishment and development of the Weather-Ready Nation program, a paradigm shift that refocused the entire NWS staff and mission, now enables forecasters to use weather information to deliver Impact-based Decision Support Services to emergency managers, which is empowering local officials to help citizens be ready, responsive and resilient to weather events. This is the real purpose of the weather forecast and is allowing the National Weather Service to better perform its mission of saving lives and protecting property.

Louis' mark on the National Weather Service will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come. On behalf of my constituents in Kansas and a grateful nation, I personally thank Dr. Louis Uccellini for his service to our Nation; wish him and his wife, Susan, well in retirement; and as Louis would say, "I'll leave it at that."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LEVILLE STEPHENS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of World War II veteran Leville Stephens.

I am proud to celebrate this milestone and honor his service and sacrifice in our Nation's uniform.

Mr. Stephens answered the call to serve. He trained at Fort Huachuca in Arizona, one of 30,000 African-American soldiers who prepared for battle at this location before deploying overseas. He was assigned to the 93rd Infantry Division and shipped to the Pacific theater.

As a private first class, Mr. Stephens served in a number of dangerous locations during the war, including the Philippines, New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. He was on his way to Japan when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, bringing about the Japanese surrender.

Mr. Stephens described his mindset while in uniform as simply "doing his